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A Frivolous Paper,  
In Form of a  
**PETITION:**

Framed & composed by a Disaffected  
Party in this City of LONDON, intend-  
ed by them to be presented to the Hono-  
rable House of COMMONS.

With certain  
**CONSIDERATIONS**  
Propounded by way of Advertisement  
and Caution, unto those who through  
unadvifadnesse, are apt to sub-  
scribe the same.

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By a Well-willer to PEACE and TRUTH.

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LONDON:  
Printed for W: Ley and F. I: 1642.

A Frivolous Paper

In Form of a

PETITION

Presented & completed by a Disaffected  
Party in this City of London, intended  
to be presented to the House of  
Commons.

With certain

CONSIDERATIONS

Propounded by way of Argument  
and Reason, and those who through  
unadvisedness, or to his  
injure the same.

By a Well-wisher to Peace and Truth.

LONDON:

Printed for W. L. and F. 1642.



## A Copy of The Frivolous Paper before mentioned.



Hat the present sense of our miseries & Apprehensions of invetible ruine both of Church and Common-wealth maketh us to become humble Suiters to this honourable Assembly (the likeliest means under God for our reliefe) to consider our distressed state and to provide a speedy remedy for our present and future evils.

Earnestly desiring you to weigh the Care and Judgement of our Predecessors, who by a known Law settled and preserved our Protestant Religion, our Liberties, and properties with the right understanding between King and Subjects, which produced plenty and peace in our streets. And to reflect with serious thoughts upon our present Distempers, violating Religion by Papists, and Sectaries, engaging our Nation in a Civill, bloody, and destructive Warre, invading our laws and liberties, endangering all our lives, and utter disabling us to relieve our distressed Brethren in Ireland.

We beseech you likewise to consider the effect of a continued Warre, as the destruction of Christians, the unnaturall effusion of blood, Father against son, Brothers by Brothers, friends by friends slain; then a Famine and sickness the followers of a Civill War, making way for a generall confusion and Invasion by a forriegen Nation, while our Treasure is exhausted, our Trade lost, and the Kingdome dispeopled.



These things weighed and enlarged by your Wifdomes, we doubt not will be as strong motives in you to labour as in us to desire a speedy peace and happy Accommodation.

Wherefore we humbly crave that not lending an ear to any Fomenters of the present Warre under what pretence soever, nor remembering ought that may increase Jealousies or continuall Divisions, betweene His Majesty and his Houses of Parliament, you will speedily tender His Majesty (according to his Royall Intimations) such Propositions for Accommodation as he may with Honour and safety to the whole Kingdome accept.

For effecting whereof we shall be ready to assist you with the best and utmost of our abilities; and whilst you endeavour Peace, we shall send up our Prayers to Heaven for the blessing of Peace upon you, and all that desire it.

## Certaine Considerations upon the Prefixed Petition.

**A**S God and his Church never wanted Enemies, so the Devill and Antichrist never wanted friends for the promotion of prophannesse and Idolatry in all places, it is hard to say, whether are more the Enemies of truth and peace with God or friends of error and peace with the Devill: men whom the Apostle calls sensually, fleshly, and Diwelish, lovers of pleasures more then Lovers of God, who can see no further then this life, fearing more the terrors of man then of the Almighty, chuse rather peace with man, and wrath with God, then the wrath of man and peace with God; the truth of all which doth appeare by a Petition now in agitation; concerning which I have gathered some plaine and undeniable observations, presenting them by way of caution unto others from these particulars, viz.

1. The chiefe Composers.
2. The Malignant nature.
3. The most probable Consequences, Reasons & Aimes.

Of this Petition.

First,

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First consider whether the chief sucklers and fomenters thereof are not notoriously known to be Patentees, Proctors, Delinquents, Malignants, who either have not at all, or any of them in any considerable measure according to their Estates assisted the common cause of the Kingdom against the common enemy thereof: whose pretences though they are for Religion, and Law, and the aid of poore Ireland, yet they are men Popish, Athiesticall, and prophane in point of Religion some whereof (and they not of the lowest sort) have most prophanely and blasphemously in the presence of those (who being desired, denied to subscribe to a Petition for peace without truth) cursed truth, saying a pox on truth, give us peace, truth will follow, and let us have peace and the Devill take truth, &c. and as for the Law, consider, whether many of them have not gotten their Estates by Patents, a lawlesse occupation; and as for bleeding Ireland let their Receipts shew what they have done for its recovery, which will amount to the same nothing as the summe which they have disbursed for distracted England, they are mutinous and tumultuous, professing in the presence of many, that if this Petition died, they will die with it, and if one suffer all will suffer, with such like mutinous expressions. — These are the parties.

Secondly, consider the nature of this Petition, and see if yee finde it not intolerably sauey and peremptory against the Parliament in many particulars.

First in taxing closely but cleerly this present Parliament with inconsideration of the known Laws of the Land, as if either they were ignorant thereof, or impotent thereby, as not able to repeale or alter the same, being made by themselves in their predecessors having power to nule the same at their pleasure.

Secondly, consider whether they do not covertly, but unavoidably tax this present Parliament, either with indiscretion in that they presume to be wiser then their predecessors, and therefore desire them to weigh the care and judgment of our predecessors, who by a known Law settled and preserved our Protestant Religion and Property, &c. or else closely implying, that this present Parliament accuseth former Parliaments of folly and unadvisednesse in that they have confirmed those things that must now be reversed; either whereof is most unsufferable arrogancy and Nationall injury.

Thirdly, consider whether they do not tax this present Parliament

with their tendring unto his Majesty such Propositions hitherto, which he may not with his honour, and safety of the Kingdome accept, and therefore they desire that *they would speedily tender unto his Majesty (according to his regall intimations) such Propositions for Accommodation, as He may with honour, and safety to the whole Kingdome accept.* Whereas it is most evidently known, that many Propositions have been tendred, and not one either to the dishonour of the King, whose greatest honour would be to govern his Kingdome by the advice of his great Councell, and faithfull Parliament, and not by the Malignant Counsellors of Papists and Traytors, and out-lawed Delinquents: neither hath there bin one Proposition tendred which doth not most uberously carry along with it the safety and future prosperity of this Kingdome.

Fourthly, consider whether the Malignity of this petition doth not appeare in many phrases and expressions scattered up and downe therein, as if it were the birth of the same womb which hath lately been, very fruitfull in many printed and scandalous Pamphlets, in casting reproches, and most unworthy scandalls, upon both Houses of Parliament, such as *The known Law of the Land; ascribing the violation of our Religion to Papists and Sectaries:* Under which latter word, hath ever bin implied, every man that in any thing hath differed from the Bishops Innovations, and superstitious Ceremonies, in the government of the Church: Thus the malignity of this Petition appears in the nature of it.

Thirdly, consider the undoubtedly aimed at Consequences and Tendencies thereof, which must be such as these.

First, the raising of mutinies, divisions and discontents in the City (the unity whereof is the ruine of the common enemy) that the report hereof in the Countries, whose eyes are upon the Citie, may discourage the well-affected there, and so the common cause may meet with reluctancy throughout the whole Kingdome.

Secondly, that the enemy now very weak and like to fall of themselves for want of Ammunition and meanes (the vitall blood of an Army) may yet strengthen and encourage themselves, and make shift by plundering, robbing, and spoiling the Countrey, to spin out a little time, knowing that our divisions here, if continued, will effectually advantage them in their bloody designs: and thus these hypocriticall Petitioners as *Ebuz* to *Eglon*, cry peace, peace, to the Kingdom, while



while they secretly and maliciously endeavour to thrust a sword of destruction into the bowels thereof.

Thirdly, a third aim'd at effect must be this, the stirring up of other their Brethren malignant wretches in other parts of the Kingdom, *ad exemplum* to do the like, that so they may bring the whole Kingdome divided against it selfe to inevitable ruine, whereas by the mercy of the Almighty, the present case and endeavour of our Parliament by our Forces abroad, and associations of the severall Countiees against the common enemy, may put a very speedy and timely end unto these present troubles, with all advantages both to Church, and State, and desired assistance of our poore Brethren in Ireland.

Fourthly, they now well perceive that they shall no longer be tolerated either in their detected malignity, or unworthy newtrality. but *Volentes volentes* shall be compell'd by just assessments and censures in their estates to help the present state of the Kingdom. and therefore will now adventure such courses that may bring all to confusion, rather then be helpfull, endeavouring like *Judas* for a little moneys sake, under colour of a kisse of Peace, to betray the Kingdome into the hands of violent and bloody men, and although like reverend Plush-cloakes, and intelligent States-men they cryed out against the Parliament. saying, did they not plead the Subjects propertie, loe where is property if they shall take what they please from us? yet they may know, that though we may plead propertie in respect of the Kings taxing without Law. yet we can pleade no propertie from the Parliament in a time of imminent danger, into whose disposall we have committed our estates and all that we have, which we never did to the King, and surely were our Parliament as selvis as these Petitioners are, we would all have known long before this time, what the power of Parliament had bin, by our ruine and slavery, being not in the tenth measure so provoked by such ingratitude. and unnatural all provocations. as they have bin.

Fiftly, consider what a rocke we may run upon, thus unthankfully to provoke the Parliament, may they not compromise differences to their own personall safety and preferment, and our irrecoverable slavery? haue they not us at such advantages, that they may undoe us every houre? can we alledge any thing against them wherein they have bin unfaithfull in that trust we committed to their charge? is it not in the prosecution of our Peace? wherein they meet with such frownes

frownes and oppositions from above? have they not hazarded their estates and livelyhoods for us? did not many of them oppose with their blood in their personall adventures, the malignity of that unnaturall and bloody Army that came against their mother Nation? did we not chuse them because we thought they would be faithfull? and shall we distrust them for their faithfulness; hath not the peace and wel-fare of the Kingdom bin pretious in their eyes? let malice it selfe produce any instance to the contrary; what had become of us before this time had not their care and diligence in securing the Seas prevented those preparations made beyond the Seas by known Traytors to the Kingdom? hath God by them discovered so many plots? prevented so many apparent dangers? freed us from so many pressures and taxations? procured so much freedom for us? and do we thus requite them? had they not every day a fresh ointment from above with the Spirit of meeknesse and love unto the Kingdom, they would make our hearts ake for such daring provocations as this Petition imports.

In fine, let us follow hard after Peace but harder after Truth, the best peace will follow truth, though truth will not follow every peace; let us pray for peace, but of Jerusalem, not of Babylon; if our peace be enmity to truth, truth will quickly devour our peace: let us admit of a peace upon any termes of personall disadvantage, so we engage not the God of peace against us; what ever we shate of that which is called ours, yet let us not leave a hoofe behinde of all that is called Gods; better it is to purchase truth for our posterity by our blood, then to betray them by a sinfull peace. God hath bin enerto bin with us, while we have bin with him, if we forsake him he will forsake us: though the Sons of ~~Man~~ be great and tall, yet shall God drive them out before us as he hath don: If we honour God by believing, he will honour us by succeeding our endeavours: tis true God bids us follow peace, but never without Holinesse.

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